

BLOFIELD AND FLEGG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICERS' OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1939

Public Health Department,
Council Office,
ACLE.
November, 1940.

To the Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Rural District Council of Blofield and Flegg.

We beg to present our Annual Report in accordance with the requirements of Circular 1961 as issued by the Ministry of Health.

In view of the outbreak of War during the year under review it will be realised that the Report will be somewhat abbreviated, owing to the interruption of the normal work of the Public Health Services.

The District is chiefly agricultural in character, the Eastern and Western parts are rapidly becoming more residential. It is bounded on the North by the Rivers Bure and Thurne, on the South by the River Yare and the Borough of Great Yarmouth, and the East by the North Sea; the District narrows to the West and is bounded by the City of Norwich.

The geographical situation of the District is such that it acts as a corridor between two large centres of population. During the summer season many thousands of visitors are resident within the area, more especially in the coastal areas, during normal peace time.

In addition the waterways bounding the District are patronised by a large number of visitors in many kinds of river craft.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	74, 774
Population (Census 1931)....	24, 566
Population (Estimated 1939).	30, 536
Number of Inhabited Houses (1939)...	7, 738
Number of Families or separate Occupiers	7, 798
Rateable Value	£116, 615.
Produce of 1d. Rate.	£437

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS: (Legitimate - Total: 482 Males - 250 Females - 232
(Illegitimate " 11 Males - 4 Females - 7
Total Live Births: 493 254 239

BIRTH RATE: 16.14

STILLBIRTHS:

(Legitimate - Total: 18 Males - 6 Females - 12
(Illegitimate " 1 _____ Females - 1
_____19 _____ 6 _____ 13

DEATHS: Total: 304 Males - 150 Females 154

DEATH RATE: 9.9

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of Child-birth:-

From Sepsis - 0 From other Sources - 1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Births:-

(Legitimate: - Total: 14 Males - 9 Females - 5
(Illegitimate " 1 " 1 " - 0 " - 0
Total 15 Males - 10 Females 5

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Males - 0 Females - 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) " - 0 " - 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years) " - 0 " - 1

England & Wales Birth Rate - 15.0

" " " Death Rate - 12.1

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Males - 0 Females - 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Males - 0 Females - 1

The Births in 1939 were 254 Males and 239 Females, a total of 493, against 255 Males and 224 Females, a total of 479 for the year 1938, making an increase of 14 births.

The Birth-rate in 1939 was 16.14 as against an average of 16.15 in the year 1938. The Birth-rate for England and Wales which remains low is 15.0

The deaths during the year were less in number but the death-rate 9.9 compares favourably with that of England and Wales which is 12.1 There were 21 deaths from Tuberculosis, no deaths from Diphtheria, 71 from Heart Diseases and 43 from Cancer. There is no sign at present of a decrease in the mortality from this terrible disease.

The Infantile Mortality Rate still remains comparatively low, it stands at 30.42 deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 Births, The rate for England and Wales being 50 per 1,000 Births.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF: Medical Officers of Health (Part Time)

W. ROYDEN M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J.D. MCKELVIE M.D.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

LOUIS F. BECKWITH C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.E.A.S.
C.B.O.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

A. ARMES C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

H.G.T. BOLTON C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

DEPARTMENTAL CLERK.

Miss R.A.M. STONE.

LABORATORY FACILITIES The Laboratories of the County Council and the County Analyst, both situated in Norwich, are available for all purposes required.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES: There are available ambulances for the conveyance of both infectious and non-infectious cases. No difficulties have been experienced in obtaining the necessary services at any time during the year.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS: The Whole District is covered by District Nursing Services, under the supervision of the Norfolk County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

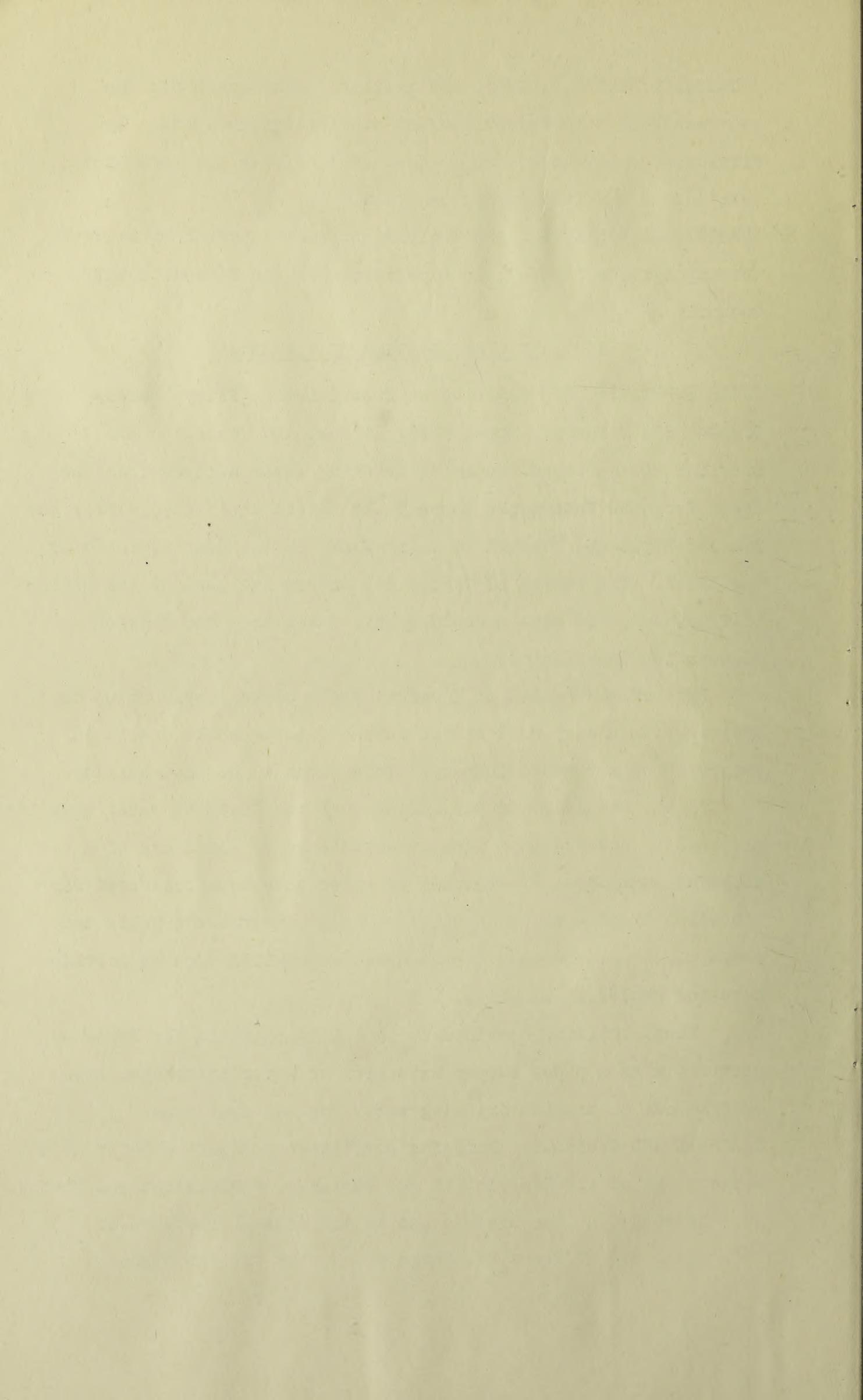
WATER SUPPLIES: The Parishes of East Caister, Filby, Hemsby, Ormesby St. Margaret, Ormesby St. Michael and Winterton are provided with a piped supply of drinking water derived from the Great Yarmouth Waterworks Company who derive their supply from the Ormesby Broad and treated at their Works in the near vicinity of the Broad. The Parish of Thorpe St. Andrew and part of the Parish of Plumstead also have a piped supply taken from the Norwich Corporation Water Mains.

Part of the Parish of Brundall has a piped supply which is derived from a deep well in the Parish. These works are in the ownership of a Private Company. This water is of good quality.

In the remainder of the Parishes of the District water supplies are chiefly derived from private wells some of which are of a doubtful character: 19 samples of water have been collected for bacteriological analysis during the year from private wells and where found unwholesome, owners have been called upon to provide pure and wholesome supplies.

Where building development is taking place in the Parishes provided with a piped supply extension of water mains have been carried out to provide drinking water for new dwellings.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE: Building activities continue chiefly at the western end of the District in the Parishes of Plumstead and Thorpe St. Andrew and at the eastern end in the coastal Parishes of Caister-on-Sea, Ormesby St. Margaret, Hemsby and Winterton.



In the three latter Parishes drainage is provided by means of cesspools, this method of drainage also operates in parts of the Parishes of Caister-on-Sea and Thorpe St. Andrew, outside the areas served by Sewerage Systems.

The carrying out of an extension of the Sewerage System to serve a rapidly developing area in the northern part of the Parish of East Caister is being seriously delayed. This extension is urgently required to avoid the construction of a large number of cesspools. A Scheme has been prepared for this Area and it cannot be too strongly urged that the Council should proceed with its execution in the interests of public health.

Owing to the continued rate of building in that part of the Parish of Thorpe St. Andrew outside the existing drainage area, it is estimated that over 2,000 cesspools have been constructed to receive drainage from dwellings erected within the last few years.

The existence and use of all these cesspools still continue to be a matter of increasing concern and anxiety to your public health officers, and having regard to the danger to public health caused by many of these cesspools overflowing, the question of providing an adequate sewerage system for this particular part of the Parish was being considered by the Council, but owing to the outbreak of War this scheme had to be abandoned; it is strongly urged that the carrying out of a proper drainage scheme should be proceeded with at the earliest possible moment, as the danger to public health is a very real one.

In view of the reports made upon the danger to public health by reason of the large number of frequently overflowing cesspools, the Council gave instructions for a cesspool Emptying Plant to be provided. It is hoped this Plant will be in operation early in the coming year.

BLOFIELD SLWER: There has been no cause for complaint respecting this Sewer since it was properly piped in the previous year.

NEW ROAD SEWER, ACLE: The Sewerage System in the Parish of Acle has been kept under observation during the year and the Catchpit and Outfall Dye on the New Road cleaned out during that period. The old brick barrel section of the Sewer has not required attention, but the weak parts of this section are likely to give way under heavy pressure.

The question of drainage in this Parish has frequently been considered, but cost of provision of a practical drainage scheme would entail the imposition of a heavy special rate charge. At the same time a duty is being discharged by again bringing this matter to the attention of the Council.

BRUNDALL DRAINAGE: During the year complaints of overflowing cesspools have been investigated in the Parish of Brundall.

The means of drainage by cesspools, from over 200 dwellings in this Parish has been referred to in previous Reports, and it is necessary to emphasize the danger to public health by the frequent overflowing of many of these.

The close proximity of some of the cesspools add to the danger, their contents overflow on to small gardens adjacent to the dwellings, and create serious nuisances at frequent intervals. Contamination of the sub-soil increases daily, and it is necessary to keep this area under close observation to avoid the creation of nuisances.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES: EAST CAISTER AND THORPE ST:ANDREW:

The sewerage Schemes in these Parishes have been working satisfactorily during the year. Particular attention has been paid to the Caister Disposal Works with satisfactory results.

MARTHAM: Parts of the Parish of Martham are served by drainage which carries both foul and surface water. The system embodies a septic tank which periodically requires attention. The open sewer in Hall Lane needs to be kept under observation to prevent it becoming a serious nuisance.

The question of foul drainage running towards the Broads is one that must receive the attention of the Council as soon as



opportunity permits. At present no purification takes place before this drainage reaches the Broads.

HALVERGATE AND FLEATHORPE: This sewer has been working satisfactorily during the year. Attention has been given to the large catchpit when necessary.

Where drains exist in the remainder of the District, the system adopted chiefly is that of the septic tank principle, or collection in cesspools and soakaway disposal; the methods of emptying employed and the disposal of the contents are frequently receiving the attention of the Public Health Department.

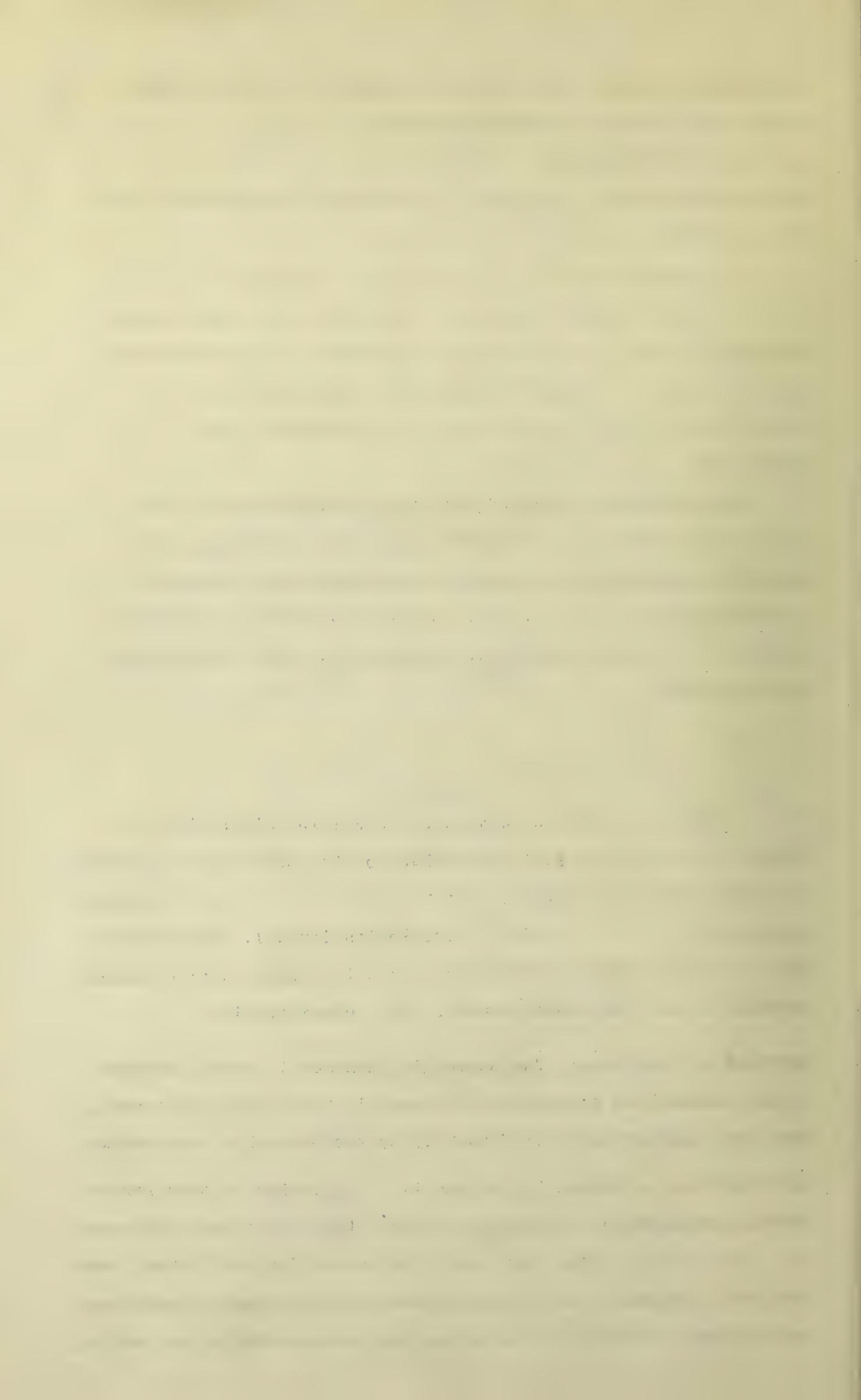
As previously mentioned this is a matter that creates a great deal of work and the Council could well exercise their powers in the adoption of Bye-laws to enforce the emptying of Cesspools at regular intervals. At present there is no public service for cleansing cesspools and satisfactorily disposing of their contents.

SCAVENGING

WELLS: There is no public scavenging scheme in this Parish. A number of inhabitants avail themselves of the services of a private contractor for the removal of their refuse and night-soil which is disposed of on land provided by the Parish Council. This cannot be considered entirely satisfactory, and the question of a public service is one that should receive early consideration.

BLOFIELD AND BRUNDALL: The Scavenging Schemes in these Parishes which included the collection of household refuse and night-soil, have been carried out satisfactorily by the Council's Contractors.

EAST CAISTER: A Scavenging Scheme is in operation in this Parish for the collection of household refuse, the refuse being disposed of by depositing on the Marsh near the Sewage Disposal Works. Some attention has been given to the method of tipping and efforts are being made to dispose of the refuse more satisfactorily by burning,



to minimise as far as possible the breeding of insect pests and vermin. This scheme is carried out by Contract and in a satisfactory manner.

WARTHAM: A scheme for the collection of household refuse and night-soil was brought into operation towards the end of the year. This scheme was most essential.

It has placed upon the Parish a heavy financial burden on account of its low rateable value, and it is hoped that some assistance will be forthcoming from the General Fund of the Council, to enable this public health service to be maintained.

REFDHAM AND WINTERTON: The Scavenging Schemes in operation in these Parishes for the collection of night-soil has been satisfactorily carried out by the Contractors during the year.

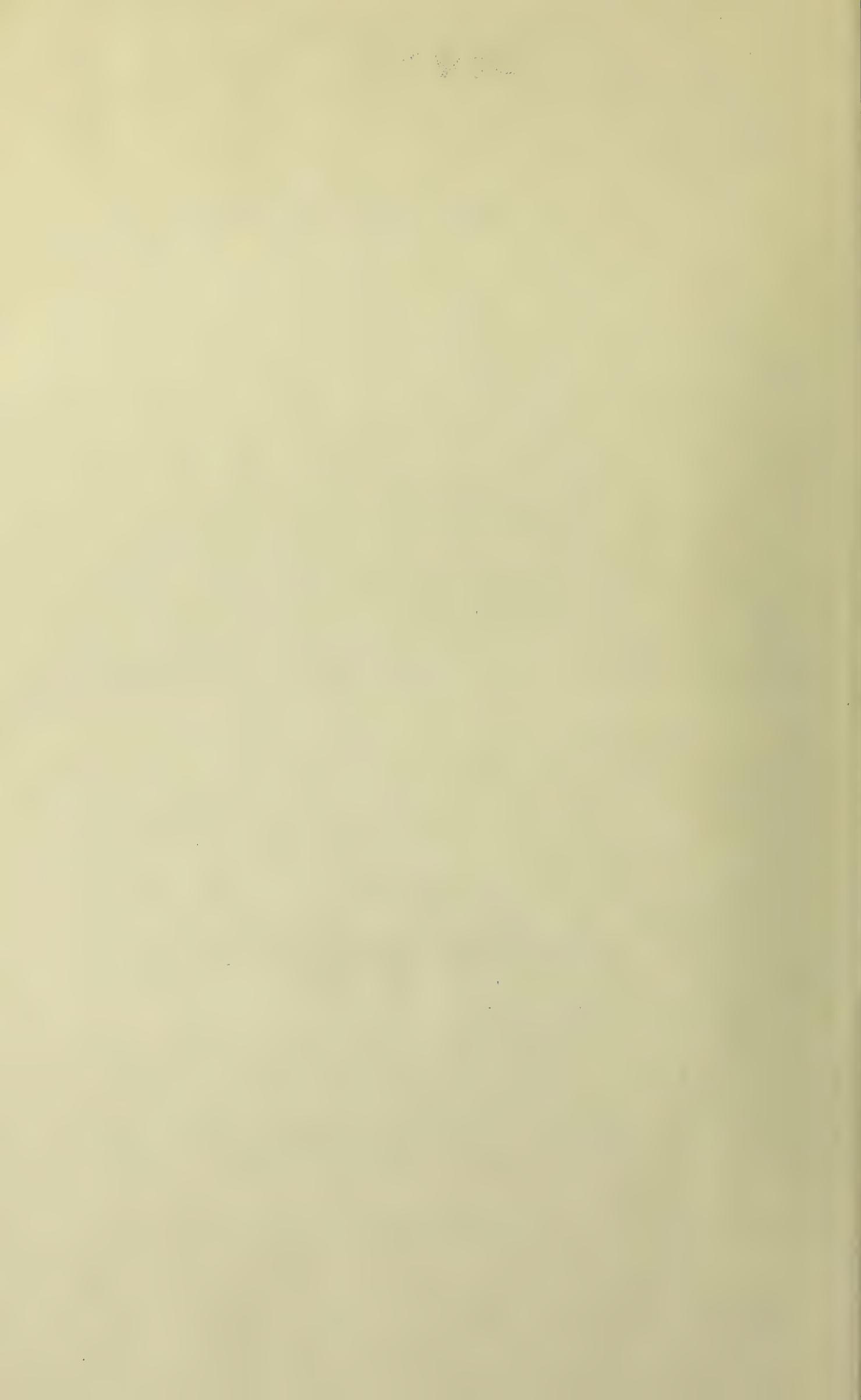
In the Parish of Ormesby St. Margaret with Scratby a Scheme for refuse collection is in operation with a monthly collection for 8 months and with a weekly collection for 4 months - June to September.

This scheme has provided a much needed public service particularly during the summer months when there is a considerable increase in the population in the coastal part of the Parish. In view of the population and size of this Parish, a weekly collection of refuse throughout the whole year is desirable.

THORPE ST. ANDREW: The system of refuse collection carried out in this Parish by the Council's directly employed Scavengers has been working satisfactorily throughout the year.

The Motor Refuse Collection Vehicle has given good service. The rapid growth of this Parish naturally calls for increased scavenging services. In view of this rapid growth a new and larger vehicle had to be provided and additional labour engaged to meet the demands.

The continued building operations increase the work of the Council's refuse service and at the end of the year approximately 60 Tons of Refuse were being collected weekly and conveyed to the Refuse Dump at Green Lane, Plumstead for Disposal.



The Incinerator Plant at the Refuse Disposal Ground has been working continually throughout the year. This plant is giving satisfactory service at the present time but the increasing quantity of refuse has taxed its capacity almost to the limit. The Council are considering the provision of a larger Incinerator to deal with refuse from this Parish.

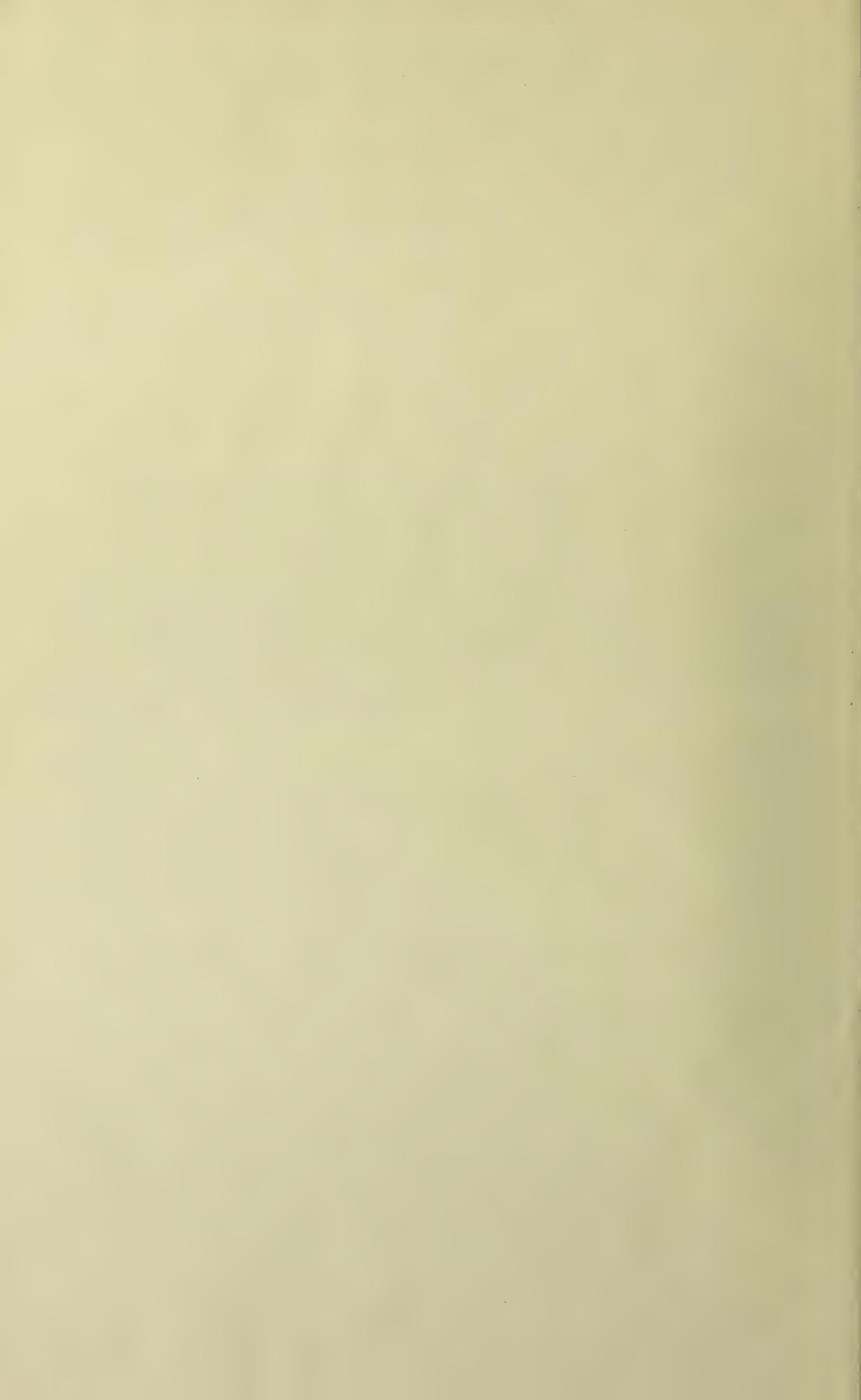
The burning of all refuse is a great improvement upon the tipping system in view of the unsuitability of the ground for controlled tipping, and since this method has been adopted the ground has been practically cleared of vermin, and also the breeding of insect pests.

The coastal Parish of Hemsby is not provided with a Public Scavenging Scheme, a private Scheme for the collection of night-soil operates for the benefit of the bungalow occupiers only. The disposal of refuse from the remainder of the Parish is undertaken by occupiers and that from Holiday Camps and Camping Grounds by the Proprietors.

It is satisfactory to note that there are 7 Public Schemes of Scavenging in operation in the District each of which are rendering valuable services in the protection of the health of the public; the War has placed many restrictions upon Social Services, but the extension of these services to Parishes where such services are required is one deserving of the favourable consideration of the Council. This especially applies to the coastal areas during the summer months when in normal times the large influx of visitors create problems connected with the disposal of refuse and also to the larger Parishes where the density of dwellings is greater.

It is essential that the attention of the Council be drawn to the indiscriminate dumping of tin, glass and other preserved food containers in every Parish of the District where Scavenging Schemes are not in operation. This practise is one that creates a number of nuisances which are prejudicial to public health.

Every effort is made to prevent the creation of such dumps, but the continued use of tins and other kinds of preserved foods by the population tends to increase, and indiscriminate dumping follows.



At the outbreak of War a large number of Military forces were stationed in various parts of the District. Many applications were received for assistance in Sanitary Matters, and the Council's drainage and Scavenging Services were taken advantage of by these Forces.

GENERAL SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT:

The Public Health Staff has rendered valuable service during the year. The amount of work that has been carried out reflects great credit upon both the Senior and Additional Sanitary Inspectors and the Departmental Clerk, Miss Stone; their co-operation has been of great service in the discharging of the many additional important duties now imposed upon the Public Health Department of a Local Authority. An Additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed during the year to enable the department to cope with the increased duties. This man volunteered and joined H.M. Forces towards the end of the year. This placed an additional burden on the existing staff. We would like at this juncture to again pay a tribute to Mr. Beckwith for the conscientious and consistent service he has rendered to the Council, and to the able support he has given us at all times.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION: Immediately previous to and at the outbreak of War approximately 2,500 Evacuees arrived in the District from London, under the Government Evacuation Scheme. The whole organisation and work of billeting was undertaken by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his Staff, and it is worthy of note that although this large influx occurred within four days, accommodation was found for everyone. This large increase of population naturally placed a tremendous strain upon the Department, but in spite of this there was maintained a complete supervision of all Sanitary services and where necessary, these were increased to meet the requirements.

Up to the end of the year no noticeable increase of infectious diseases occurred by reason of this large population increase, although a great many cases of Scabies occurred which

called for treatment. In addition, the cleansing of verminous persons and the disinfection of premises made many additional calls upon the Staff.

Caister, Hemsby and Scratby have been well managed and continue to provide very necessary public services to the general public.

SHOPS ACT, 1934; Visits have been paid to Shops and inspections made under Section 10 of the Act and information collected and recorded in connection with light, ventilation and sanitary accommodation; various improvements have been carried out.

BAKERHOUSES: Periodical visits have been paid to Bakerhouses in the District and instructions issued where necessary to occupiers to cleanse.

Attention has also been given to water supplies in connection with these premises.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS: There are no public or private Baths and Pools within the District.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS: Action was taken where found necessary in connection with this matter.

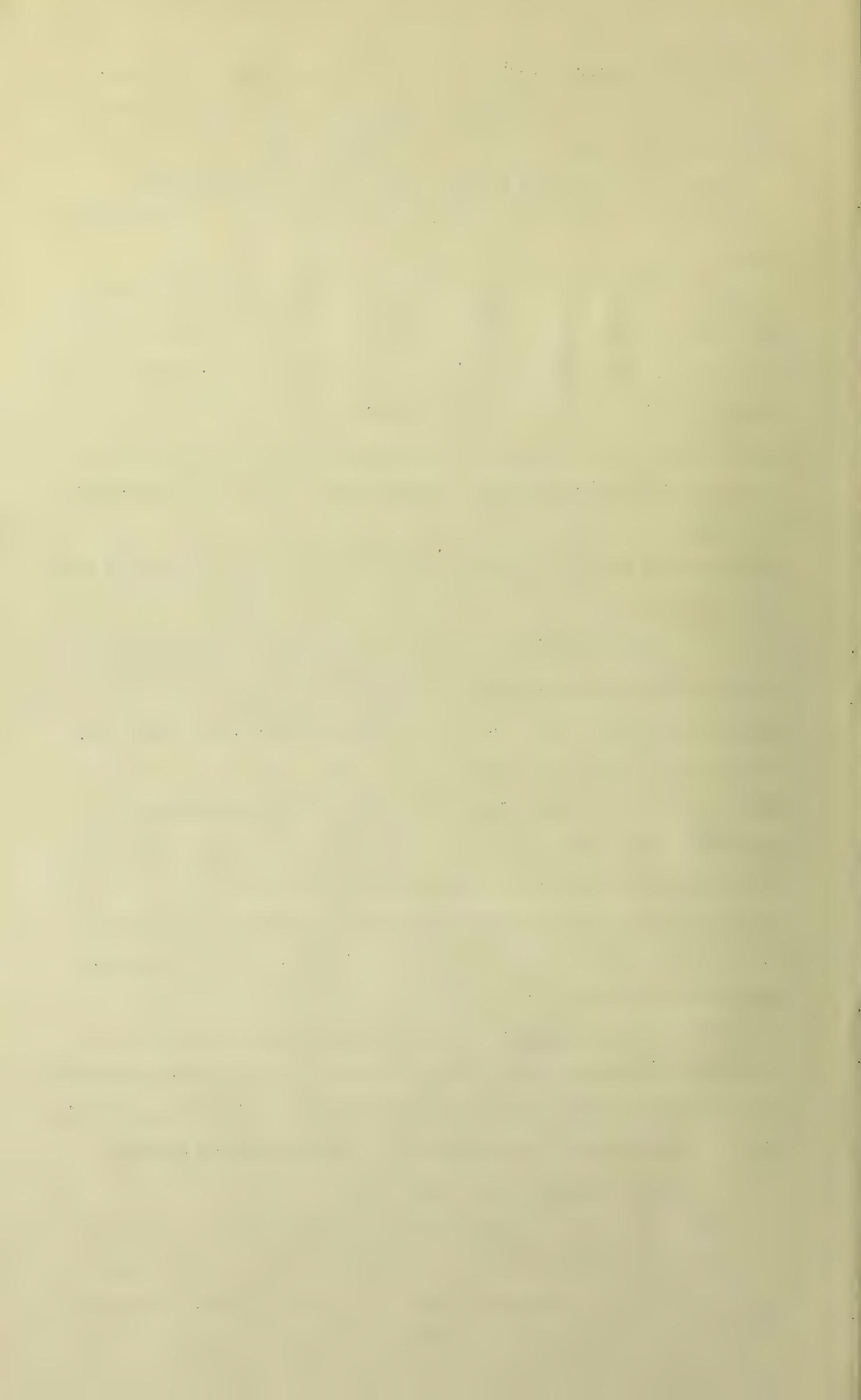
SCHOOLS: The sanitary condition and water supplies may be considered barely satisfactory in some of the Schools and some attention must be given to bring about improvements.

Visits are paid to Schools upon the outbreak of notifiable infectious diseases and any necessary steps taken to prevent the spread of such diseases.

All infected children and contacts are excluded from attendance at School and early action taken to close any Department particularly affected. Thorough disinfection and cleansing is also carried out previous to the return of the children to school.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS') ACT, 1926 - 38.

Five applications were received for assistance in respect of the re-conditioning and improvement of nine dwellings; grants were given in each case. The works were not proceeded with in respect



of one cottage, which was eventually demolished.

There are a number of cottages in the District suitable for improvement that could be usefully brought to a higher standard of fitness, and would provide better housing accommodation in many cases where it is urgently needed.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES: Periodical visits of inspection have been made under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 to Cowsheds and Dairies.

Improvements were carried out to several premises, additional accommodation and improved plant provided for bringing premises up to standard and cleaner handling and production of milk.

The operation of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 is administered by the County Council. Certain duties under the Order are delegated by the County Council to the Rural District Council. These included the inspection of Accredited Producers' Premises, reporting upon their condition and the collection of Milk Samples.

There are 30 Licensed Accredited Milk Producers in the District from whose premises samples of milk were collected quarterly during the year for cleanliness tests and once each half-year for bacteriological tests.

These duties have increased the work of the Public Health Department; the collection of milk samples necessitates early morning visits to the majority of the Producers' Premises. In all, 102 samples were collected for cleanliness tests and 56 samples for bacteriological examination for tubercle bacilli.

HOUSING: During the year the Council completed the erection of houses for the abatement of overcrowding in families previously reported upon. The re-housing of these families has abated overcrowding to a considerable extent. Housing activities were seriously curtailed and it was found impossible to undertake a programme of substantial dimensions with regard to a number of dwellings considered much below a standard of fitness. The billeting of many hundreds of evacuees upon families in some



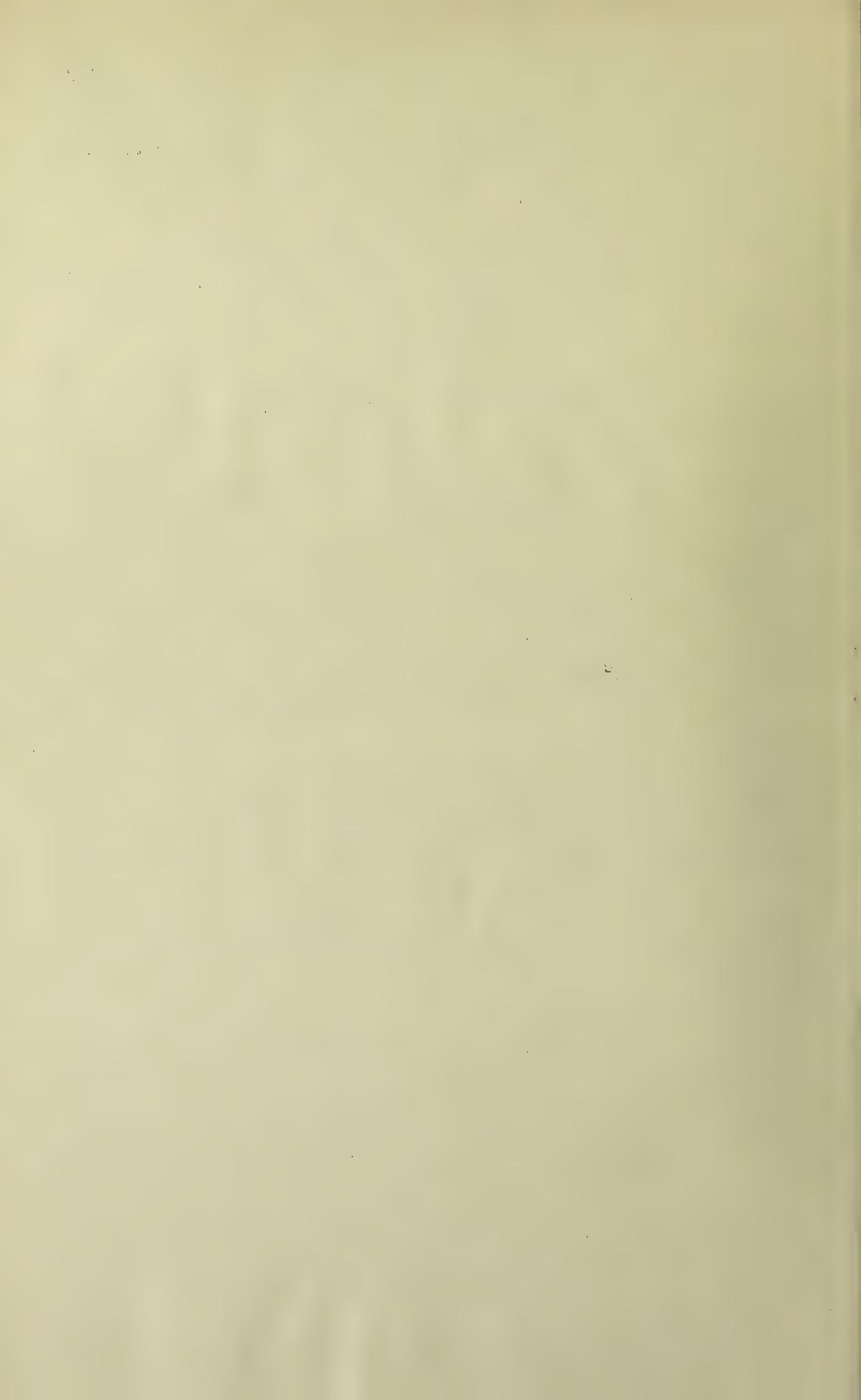
of the smaller houses taxed their accommodation to full capacity, but in view of the urgent necessity of accepting this additional population some relaxing of regulations was found necessary until a re-arrangement of billeting was able to be undertaken.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933: Licenses were granted to Slaughtermen under the above Act; mechanically operated instruments are used for stunning animals before slaughter at all slaughter houses.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA: A Scheme for immunisation against Diphtheria of the poorer inhabitants of the District is in operation. Advantage is being taken of this public service which has been brought to the notice of the public by means of posters circulated throughout the District. During the year persons were immunised under the scheme.

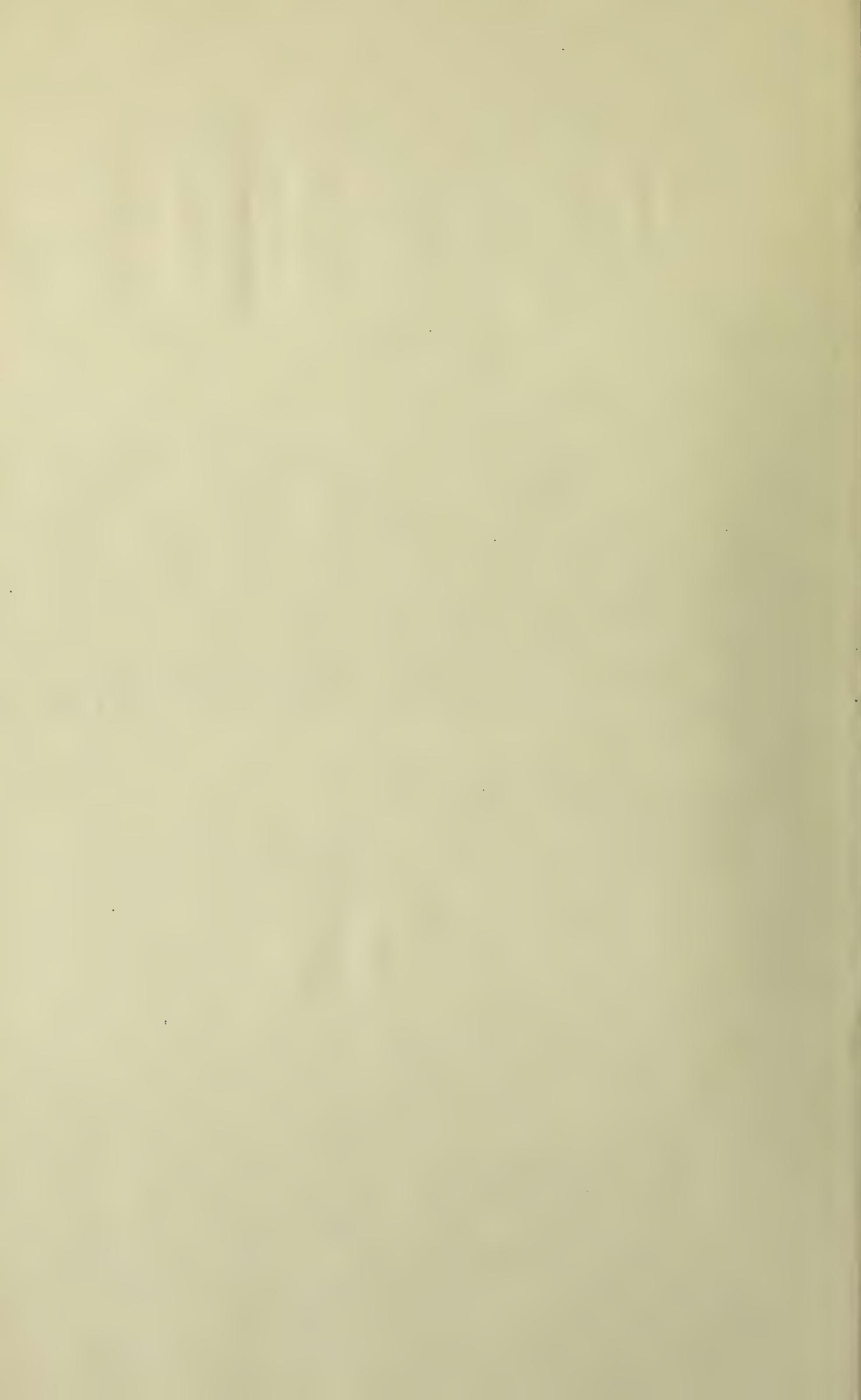
As a preventive measure against this dangerous disease it is hoped that a great many more persons will receive inoculation.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS: There are Slaughterhouses in the District, of them are Licensed and Registered. 802 visits were paid to shops and slaughterhouses. 2,849 Carcasses of meat were examined, and the following table shews the amount of meat found to be diseased and condemned as unfit for the food of man:-



CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

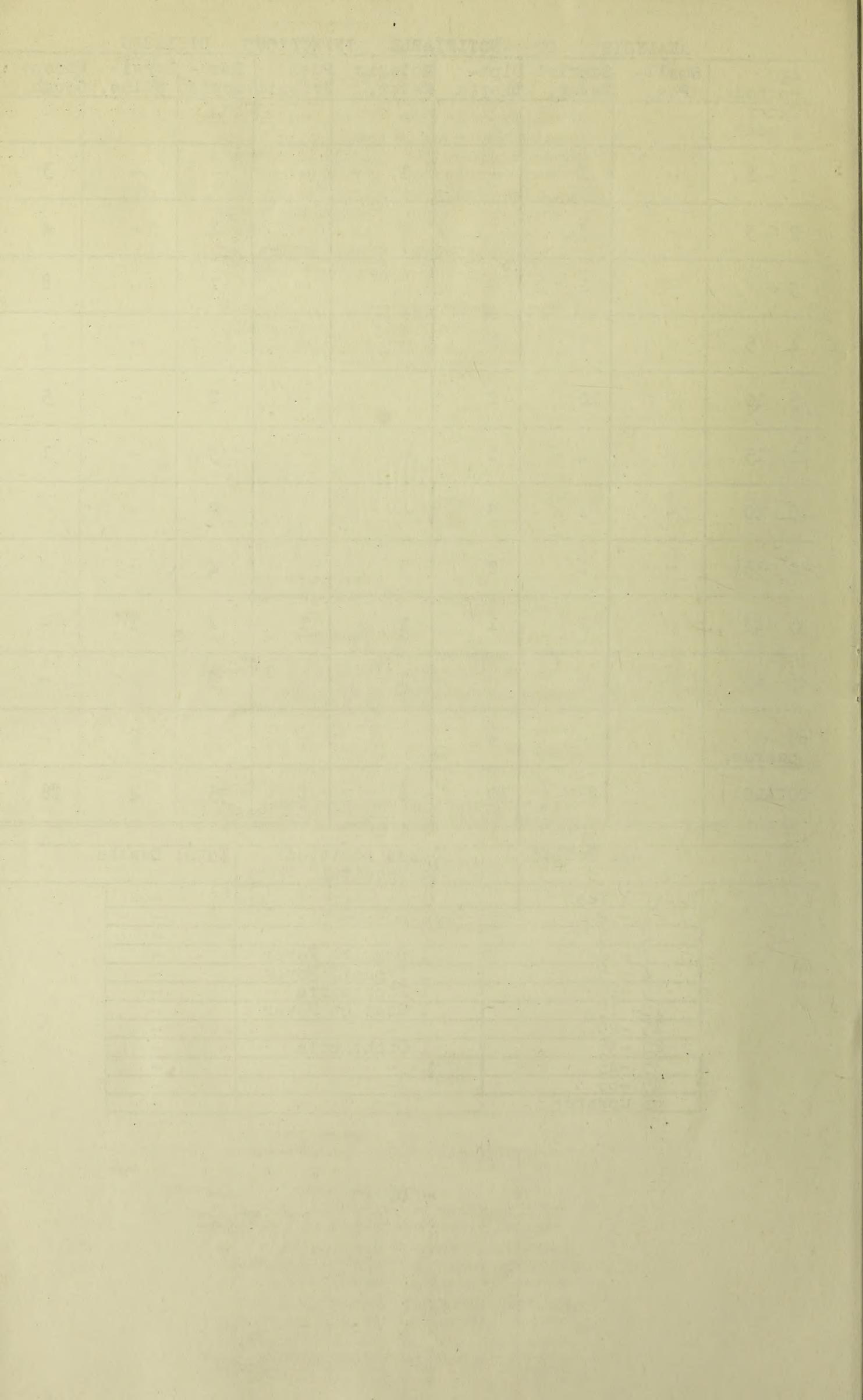
	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	2285 Beasts	-	-	2466	10,536
Number Inspected	311 Beasts	-	-	505	2,067
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole Carcasses condemned.	4 Beasts	-	-	6	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	38	-	-	12	122
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	13.5	-	11.1	5.9	6.09
Tuberculosis only. Whole Carcasses condemned.	8 Beasts	-	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	21 Beasts	-	-	-	186
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	9.32	-	-	-	9.14



ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Age Periods.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Puer: Pyrexia	Pneu- monia.	Exysi- pelas.	Whoop: Cough.
Under 1 year	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1 - 2	--	1	--	1	--	--	--	3
2 - 3	--	3	--	--	--	1	--	4
3 - 4	--	2	--	--	--	1	--	8
4 - 5	--	3	1	--	--	--	--	7
5 - 10	--	10	2	--	--	2	--	5
10 - 15	--	4	1	--	--	3	--	1
15 - 20	-	1	3	--	--	2	--	--
20 - 35	--	1	2	5	--	4	--	--
35 - 45	--	2	1	1	1	4	1	--
45 - 65	--	--	--	1	--	0	--	--
65 upwards.	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--
TOTALS:	--	27	10	8	8	35	4	28

Age Periods.	Gases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Under 1 Year	--	--
1 - 2	--	--
2 - 3	--	--
3 - 4	1 Scarlet Fever	--
4 - 5	1 Typhoid Fever	--
5 - 10	1 Diphtheria	--
10 - 15	1 Scarlet Fever	--
15 - 20	--	--
20 - 35	1 Diphtheria	--
35 - 45	--	--
45 - 65	--	--
65 upwards	--	--



TUBERCULOSIS (NEW CASES AND MORTALITY) DURING 1939

NEW CASES

DEATHS

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
1	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
5	000	000	2	000	000	000	000	000
15	1	000	1	000	000	000	000	000
25	1	000	1	1	1	2	000	000
35	1	3	000	000	000	000	000	000
45	5	4	000	000	2	1	000	000
55	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
65 & Upwards	4	000	000	000	2	000	000	000
TOTALS:	17	12	4	1	5	3	000	000

We are, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servants,

W. ROYDEN, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J. D. MCKELVIE, M.D.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

